

Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 261615Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9107

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 5160

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IV

SUBJ: MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN OFFING?

REF: ABIDJAN 0645

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD RENEWED SPECULATION FROM IVORIAN SOURCES IN RECENT DAYS THAT LONG-ANTICIPATED MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE IS ABOUT TO OCCUR. ONCE SOURCE SAID PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TOLD "DIALOGUE 74" PARTICIPANTS IN JANUARY THERE WOULD BE CHANGES IN MINISTERS. RUMORS BEGAN CIRCULATING AROUND ABIDJAN IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER OF POSSIBLE REALIGNMENTS (REF), BUT NOTHING HAPPENED. AS HOUPHOUET LIKES FREQUENTLY TO ALLOW RESPECTABLE PERIOD OF TIME TO PASS BEFORE ACTING, SO IT CONCEIVABLE THAT TIME IS NOW.

2. WHAT IS CITED AS PROOF THAT SOMETHING IS UP IS FACT THAT VIRTUALLY ALL MINISTERS HAVE RETURNED TO ABIDJAN. LABOR MINISTER VANIE-BI-TRA, EXPECTED THIS WEEK, RETURNED JUNE 22. FORMIN USHER RETURNED SAME EVENING; FONMIN SOURCE SAID THIS NOT AT ALL MINISTER'S INTENTION, BUT HE RETURNED ON ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT. IN SAME VIEN SEC STATE FOR MINES GUI DIBO, WHO WAS TO HAVE LED IVORIAN LOS DELEGATION TO CARACAS, HAS NOT YET BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE.

3. TALK OF MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE DEVELOPS AT REGULAR INTEVALS
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HERE. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER IT IS ANY MORE RELIABLE THIS TIME THAN IN THE PAST, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY CIRCULATING.

SMITH

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NNN

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